

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed February 23, 2004. Applicant gratefully acknowledges Examiner's statements that "[c]laims 39-41 and 44-49 are allowed. Claim 24 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph . . . "

Claim 24 is currently amended. Claims 2-3, 5-9, 11, 24-41, and 44-49 are pending in this application.

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 3, 5-9, 11, and 24-38 as being indefinite. The Examiner states:

claim 24 in the last three lines is indefinite and applicant needs to make it clearer with respect to what other element the first and second flanges form an angle of less than 90 degrees. The use of the word "between" is part of the indefinite problem.

By this amendment, claim 24 has been amended to make the relationship between the flanges and the planar portions in forming the angle clear and definite. Moreover, the term "between" has been removed. These amendments are clearly supported by the original specification, claims and drawings and do not add new matter. As a result, the Examiner's rejection should now be moot.

CONCLUSION

The present response addressed the rejection in the Office action. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims patentably distinguish over all the art of record, taken singly or in any combination, under 35 U.S.C. § 102



as well as under 35 U.S.C. §103. Entry of the Amendment, allowance of the claims, and the passing of the application to issue is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a discussion with applicant's attorney might expedite the resolution of any outstanding issues in this case, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below.

Applicant believes that a fee is due as indicated on the attached Request for Three Month Extension submitted herewith. If any other fee is due the Commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account No. 19-0031.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop NON-FEE AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA. 22313 -1450, on the date indicated below:

Signature

Tasha N. Etienne

Name

Tasha N. Etienne

Date

March 3, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

SAIDMAN DesignLaw Group

Granetta M. Coleman

Granetta M. Coleman
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 39,638

March 3, 2004

1110 Bonifant Street, Suite 510
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 585-8601

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